

Farmland Stewardship Deer Fencing Grants

How They Work

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provides cost-share grants to eligible farmers for the installation of high-tensile woven wire deer fencing on permanently-preserved farms. The grants may cover up to 50% of the costs of materials and installation, and they may not exceed \$200/acre or a total grant of \$20,000.

Application

Farmers (owner-operators of preserved farms) may apply to the SADC at any time. The application form and the Farmland Stewardship Deer Fencing Program policy, P-53, are available on the SADC website.

Criteria

The applicant must be an established farmer, i.e., the owner-operator or immediate family member of the owner-operator of a family farm who actively participates in the operation and management of a farming operation. If the applicant is a cooperative, corporation, partnership, or joint operation, it must be primarily engaged in farming, i.e., the applicant entity must derive over 50% of its gross income from all sources from its farming operation. See Policy P-53 for more information.

The farmland on which the deer fencing is to be constructed must be owned by the applicant and be permanently preserved, i.e., enrolled in a permanent Farmland Preservation Program approved by the SADC. Some independently-preserved (non-SADC-preserved) farms, e.g., farms preserved through county independent easement purchase, cluster development, transfer of development rights, or severing of Pinelands or Highlands development credits/rights, also may be eligible if certain criteria are met.

Deer Fencing Projects

The fenced area must be completely enclosed by deer fencing that meets the specifications outlined in Policy P-53. Projects must be commenced within six months and completed within three years. The fencing also must be maintained for and have a lifespan of at least ten years.

Special Considerations

Applicants must attend an SADC deer fence training installation session or watch the SADC deer fence installation training video prior to installing the fence. Once the project is completed, the applicant submits a reimbursement form, and the SADC inspects the fence.

For More Information

Established farmers should contact the SADC at (609) 984-2504 and ask for David Clapp or David Kimmel. More information also is available at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/postpres/>.



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